

IMPROVED SPINAL SURGICAL PROSTHESIS

Abstract

A spinal surgical prosthesis such as an artificial disc having a pair¹ of opposed plate members, a flexible support interposes therebetween and temporary stabilizer made of a bio-compatible and bio-resorbable material surrounding the flexible support between the opposed plate members. Prior to the resorption of the temporary stabilizer, the prosthesis serves as an inter-body fusion device for enhancing osteo-integration of the prosthesis with adjacent vertebrae during the healing phase following surgery. Subsequent to the resorption of the temporary stabilizer, the flexible support provides flexibility and compressibility while maintaining the proper inter disc space and lordosis or kyphosis between adjacent vertebrae.